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Pt. 3

Part 3.

THE

LAKE SUPERIOR

REGION

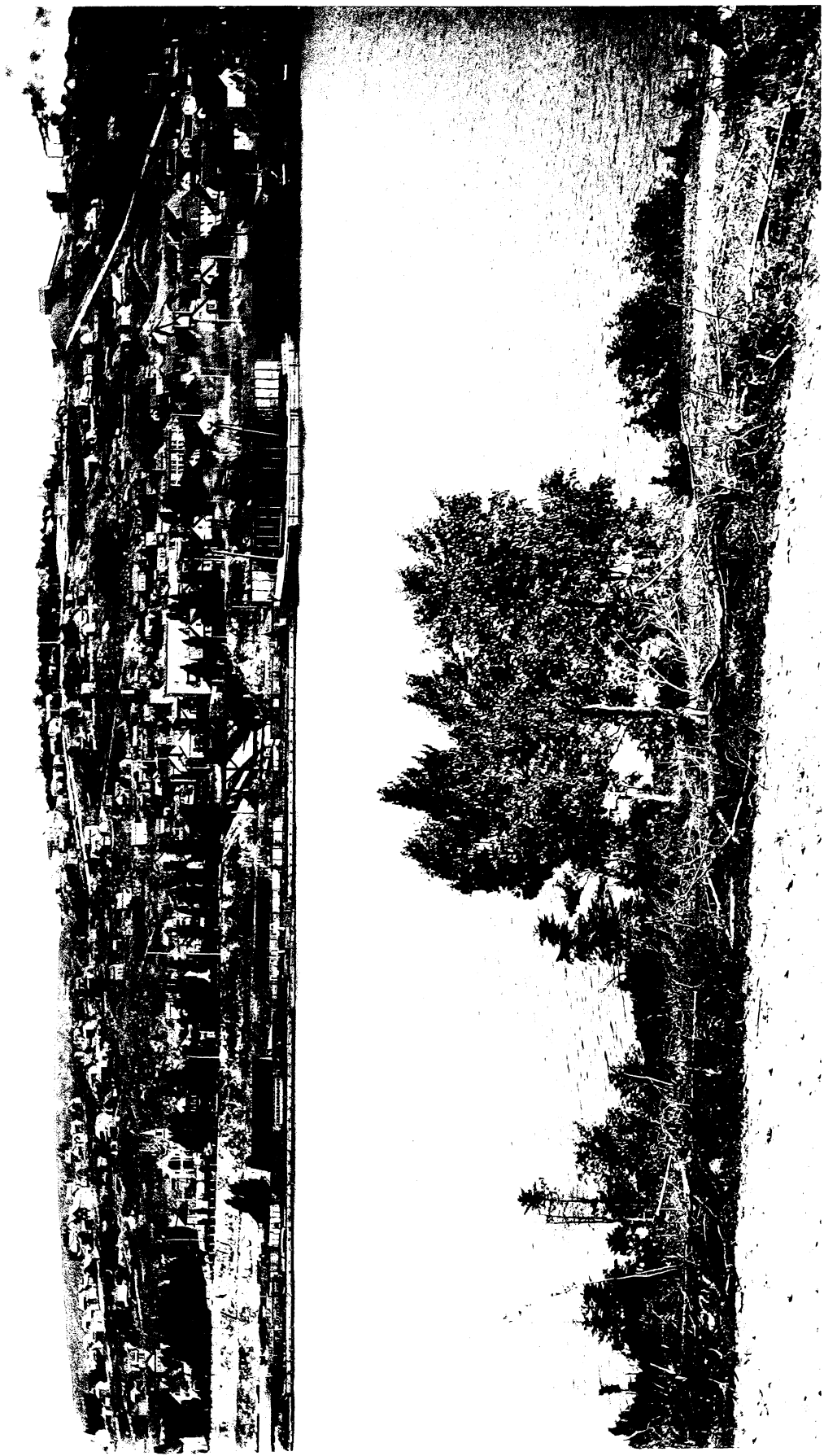
From the Library of
William Neely of Negaunee
Presented by his daughter,
Mrs. Oscar Hanson of Bessemer



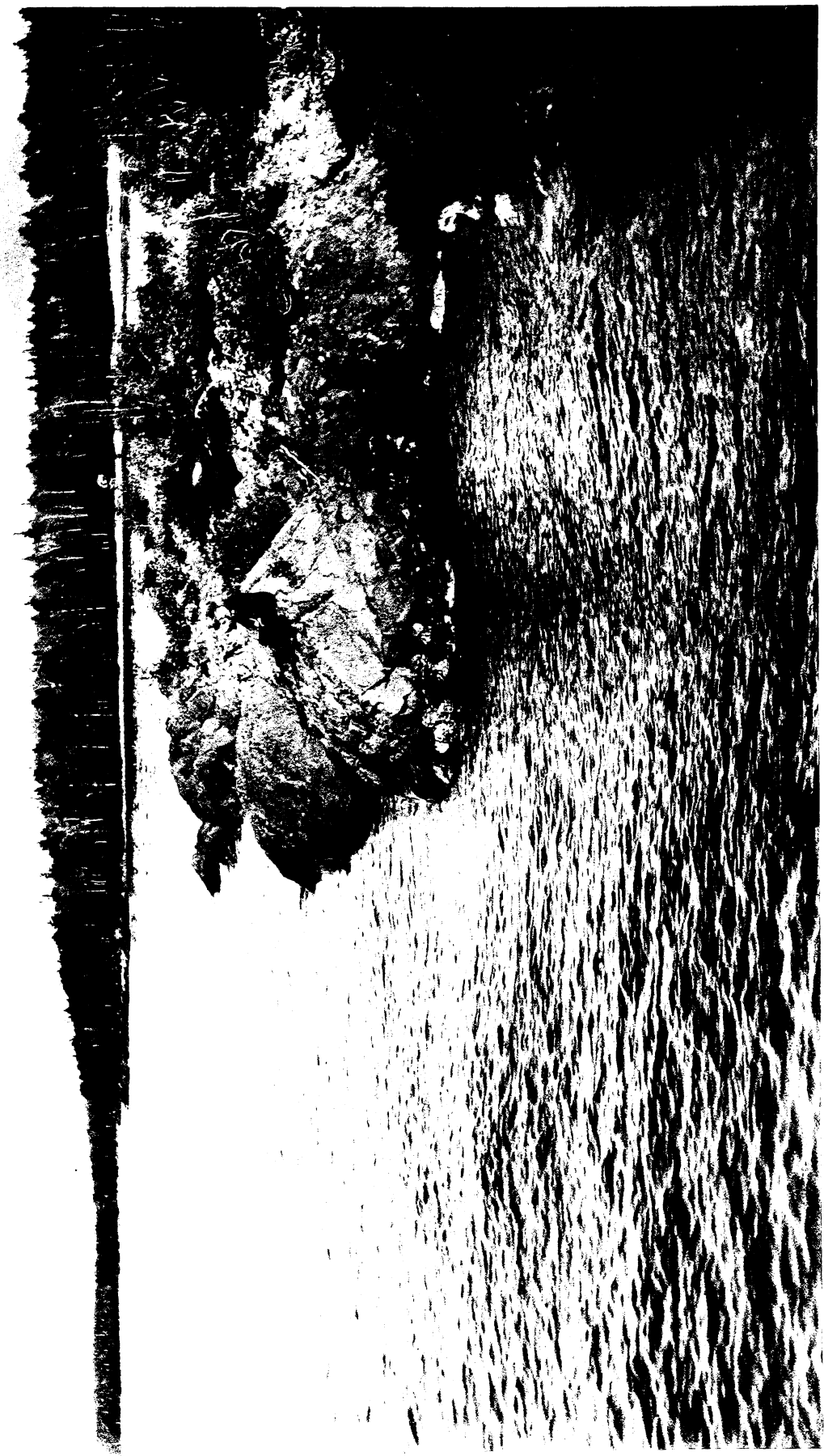
MOSQUITO LAKE NEAR COPPER HARBOR.



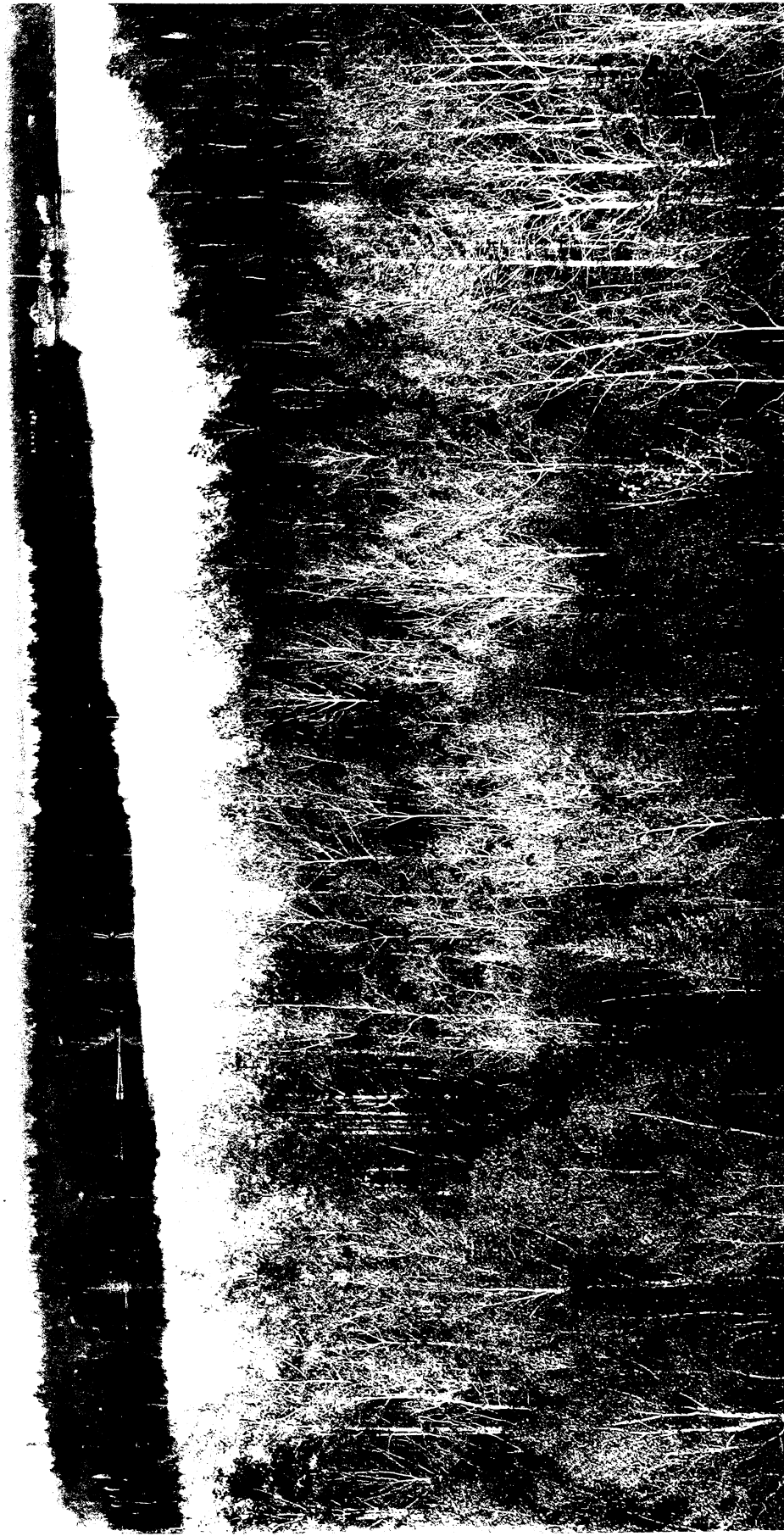
VIEW OF HOUGHTON FROM THE QUINCY LOCATION.



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF HANCOCK.



KEWEENAW POINT.



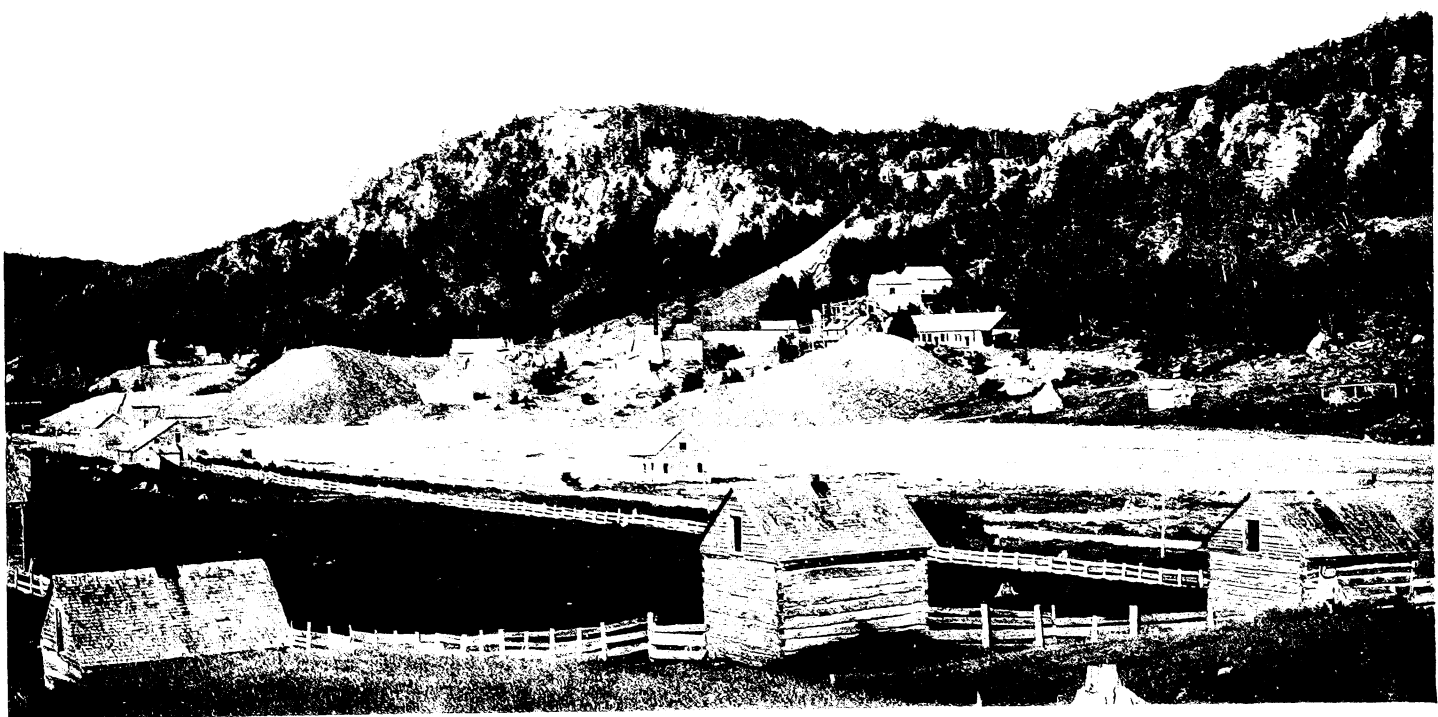
OVERLOOKING LAKE FANNY-HOOE AND SHOWING OLD FORT WILKINS—
COPPER HARBOR.



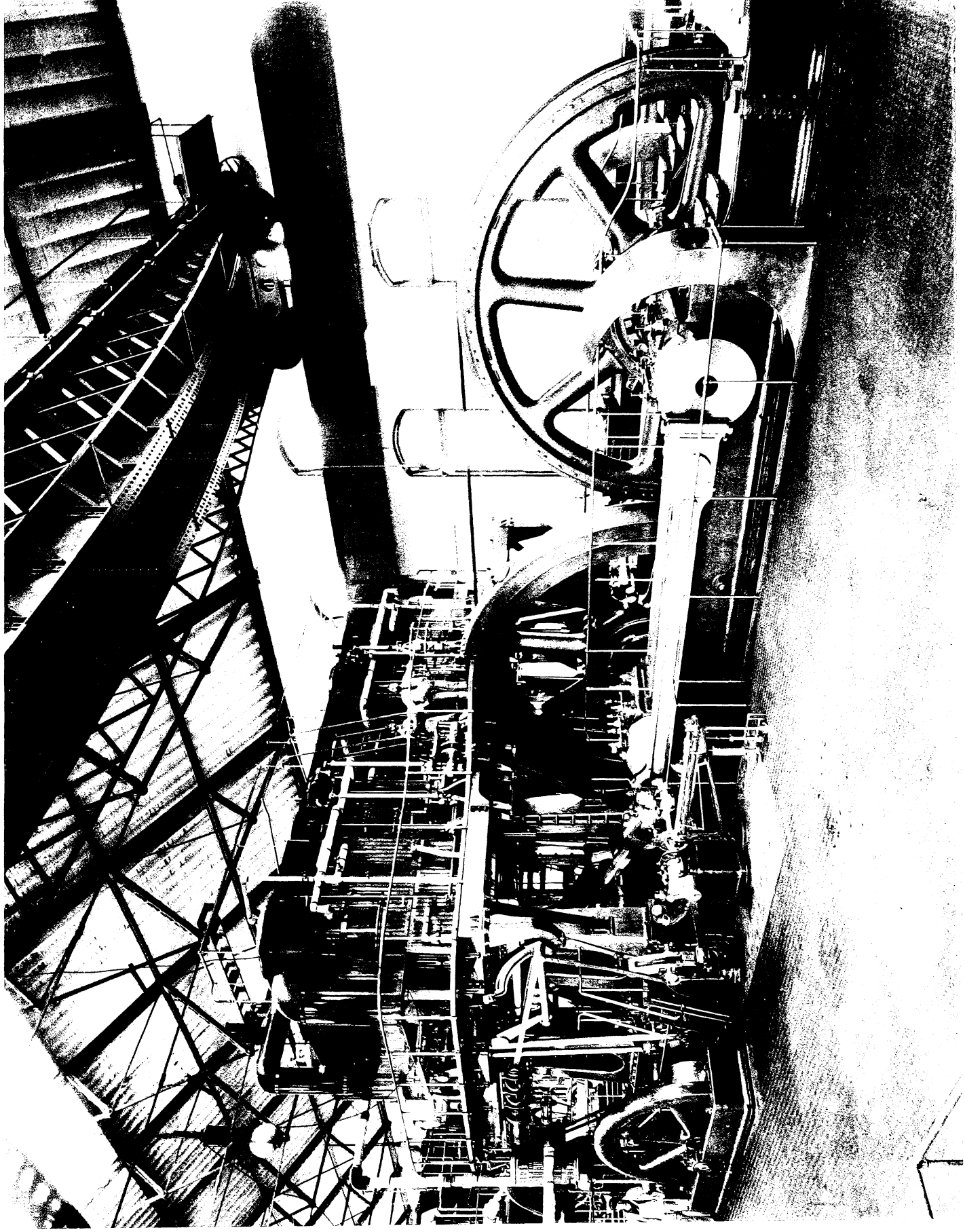
SCENES FROM LIGHT HOUSE—EAGLE HARBOR.



DESERTED VILLAGE.



OLD CLIFF MINE.



NEW ENGINE FOR THE RED JACKET SHAFT, CALUMET AND HECLA
MINING CO.

from far up the bay came a long mournful cry, which was answered from the opposite direction. "All's well" was interpreted, and they once more breathed freely as they sought their own cabins. The sole "Indian scare" of the Upper Peninsula was ended.

During this year a few explorers entered the country in search of the mineral wealth of which indefinite stories had long been told. Seven men spent that winter at Copper Harbor, and Dr. Douglas Houghton, the state geologist, spent part of the summer in the iron district.

The summer of '44, and '45 Dr. Houghton, with his party, spent in exploring, and gained much valuable information. He declared there was plenty of gold which has not yet been located in paying quantities, however. He had only begun the labor for which he seemed specially fitted, when death put an end to his valuable work. He left Mr. Brockway's house in the fall of '45, intending to return to L'Anse in about three weeks. He passed up through Portage Lake, and River, portaged over where the canal now gives free passage, and Oct. 13th, while coasting down the Point, was caught in a severe gale, the boat capsized, and he was drowned about a mile above Eagle River. The pioneers still speak regretfully of this sad ending of a life that promised so much, and which they feel never has been fully replaced. The name of Douglas Houghton is still held dear, and is commemorated in the local nomenclature of the country.

Meantime, in 1844 prospectors were pouring into the country. William A. Burt, inventor of the solar compass, and deputy surveyor under Dr. Houghton, discovered the first iron ore in Marquette County, which had been regularly organized in 1843. This find, P. M. Everet located the next year, as the Jackson Mine.

The copper country was, also, filling up. The U. S. Government built the stockade at Fort Wilkins, and sent two companies of the 5th U. S. Infantry to garrison the place, but in 1846 it was again abandoned as useless.

Mrs. Brockway tells how in July, '46, she saw, far up Keeweenaw Bay, the first large sail which had greeted her eyes since her arrival, eleven months before. Springing to the top of a woodpile, she shouted "Nahbequan." "Nahbequan!" (a sail vessel, a sail vessel,) until all had gathered to share her delight. This was the first glimpse, from the outer world, the first welcome messenger which came bearing supplies, papers, and letters from the far away home. Today Mrs. Brockway is very impatient if the mail from the north, south, east, and west fails to reach her three times each day; or if the telegraph, or telephone do not bring to her, where she sits in her wheeled chair, complete news of what is transpiring in every part of the civilized world; or if the cold storage car has not brought some seasonable delicacy.

That summer of '44, two babies were added to the little settlement at L'Anse, and the summer of '45, a white couple coasted up from Grand Island, and were married at Mr. Brockway's. A log house was built at Copper Harbor, and another at Eagle Harbor for the better protection of those who meant to stay through the winter. In the fall, Dr. Houghton and some of his party were drowned.—Marriage, births, homes, deaths!—In 1845 the reign of the white man may be said to have fairly begun in the Upper Peninsula.

In 1844 the first mine was opened on Haye's Point, now better known as Lighthouse Point, at Copper Harbor, but was soon abandoned. In '45, trial was made just below the Fort of a vein of black oxide of copper, which was also abandoned. This work was done by the Pittsburg and Boston Mining Co., which more successfully located the Cliff, during the same year. The Eagle Harbor Mining Co., also began work that year.

In 1846, Mr. Brockway and family, in search of the new Eldorado, coasted around Keeweenaw Point in small boats, and arriving at Copper Harbor, May 3d, took possession of the log house erected the preceeding year. Their first meal there was prepared for thirteen beside their own family, and from that time they became the "Dad," and "Mam" of the copper land.

That year saw the Johnson House, and Joe Longs, built at Eagle River, and a "log tavern" had been built at Eagle Harbor as early as '44. Nevertheless, in July there were but three families on the whole Point.

In August, the Phoenix Copper Co. began the erection of a stamp mill, which was unsuccessful, although they took out over five hundred tons of copper within the year. The discovery of the Cliff vein was made that fall; the Copper Falls Co. was organized; and the Northwest Mine began work. Between this time and 1850, many hundreds of permits for locations were granted, much exploring was done, both in the iron and copper sections, and much fruitless labor was expended, only to be soon abandoned.

Chippewa County was organized under the territorial government as early as 1826, taking in the territory as far west as the Mississippi River, and as far north as the boundary of the United States.

In 1843 the whole Upper Peninsula was divided into six counties. In 1846 three election precincts were set off, Eagle Harbor, Eagle River, and L'Anse, and the first elections were held at these places. All of Schoolcraft, Marquette, and Ontonagon Counties being included with Houghton County "for judicial, elective, and revenue purposes." These elections were afterward declared void, as were those of 1847. It was 1848 before they got themselves legally organized. Eagle River was made the County Seat, and Peter White records having, in mid-winter, made a journey "afoot and alone" from Marquette to Eagle River, to secure the County clerk's signature to certain documents.

Eagle Harbor, that year, built the first church, the Methodist, and in 1849 the first Catholic Church. She followed this by building the first schoolhouse in 1853. I am afraid it must be admitted that she had previously built the first saloon.

In 1846 an explorer's cabin was built on the site of Hancock, and explorations were pushed in the vicinity of Portage Lake, but little was accomplished there for several years. In '47, the father of Congressman Sheldon brought his family to the Entry, and in 1852 put up a store at Houghton, the first building erected there.

In the iron country the Jackson Mine had built an unsuccessful forge, up Carp River, and in 1850 they made the first shipment of five tons of ore.

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